# Australia’s Aid for Trade (A4T)

The goal of Australia’s Aid for Trade is to support developing and least developed countries (LDCs) to participate in and benefit from the global rules-based trading system – with the WTO at its core – and to use trade and investment as a tool for inclusive and sustainable development.

Australian Aid for Trad is wide ranging, demand driven and delivered through multilateral, regional and bilateral programs and partnerships.

## A4T by top 10 partner countries (beneficiaries): 2022-23 % allocation of total ODA

1. Papua New Guinea – 24.4 per cent.

2. Indonesia – 6.8 per cent.

3. Vietnam – 4.4 per cent.

4. Solomon Islands – 4.0 per cent.

5. Vanuatu – 3.0 per cent.

6. Cambodia – 2.8 per cent.

7. Palau – 2.5 per cent.

8. Fiji – 2.4 per cent.

9. Timor-Leste – 2.1 per cent.

10. Philippines – 1.4 per cent.

## A4T by Region (Pacific, SE Asia, SW Asia, Africa):

• 45.8 per cent in Pacific.

• 24.7 per cent in Southeast and East Asia.

• 22.1 per cent in Other.

• 2.8 per cent in South and West Asia.

• 2.4 per cent in Sub-Saharan Africa.

• 2.2 per cent in Other Africa.

The Aid-for-Trade Total in the financial year of 2022/23 is 18.7 per cent of Australia’s total ODA. In brackets: $895.3 million of $4.78 billion total ODA.

Aid-for-Trade to the Pacific has increased by 22.3 per cent of Australia’s total ODA to the Pacific in the financial year of 2022/23. In brackets: $410.3 million of $1.84 billion total ODA. Small note: It is at an all-time high since the financial year of 2015/16. Australia’s Aid-for-Trade to Africa and the Middle East also increased in the financial year of 2022/23.

## A4Tⁱ to the Pacific has increased (FY2022/23)

1. 51.9 per cent in Economic Infrastructure that includes transport and storage, followed by energy supply and generation.

2. 42.8 per cent in Productive Capacity that includes agriculture, business and other services, banking and finance.

3. 5.28 per cent in Trade Policy, regulations and trade adjustment.

ⁱ Based on OECD Creditor Reporting System (CRS).

## A4T and the Sustainable Development Goals

Australia’s Aid for Trade is directly supporting several of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including:

• 1. No Poverty (logo of family)

• 2. Zero Hunger (logo of steaming dish)

• 5. Gender Equality (logo of gender symbols with equal sign in the centre)

• 7.Affordable and Clean Energy (logo of sun with power button sign in the centre)

• 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth (logo of bar graph with an incline arrow)

• 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (logo of three building blocks)

• 13. Climate Action (logo of eye with the earth in the centre)

• 14. Life Below Water (logo of fish under water)

• 17. Partnerships for the Goals (logo of 5 rings interconnected)

## Australia’s agriculture and food security support in the financial year of 2022/23

• It comprises 23 per cent of Australia’s Aid for Trade.

• 42 countries are supported. In brackets: with policy advice and technical assistance on food security.

Australia advocated a comprehensive approach to agriculture and food security that targets the immediate needs of the poorest while improving agricultural productivity and opening markets.

## The Pacific Biosecurity Partnership Program

This program supports Pacific agricultural sector growth and food security by supporting better biosecurity outcomes and market access. The program is vital to the coordination and implementation of regionally harmonised biosecurity and trade facilitation initiatives, recovery and resilience, local jobs, sustainability, and women’s economic empowerment.

## Trade mainstreaming

This program supports Pacific agricultural sector growth and food security by supporting better biosecurity outcomes and market access. The program is vital to the coordination and implementation of regionally harmonised biosecurity and trade facilitation initiatives, recovery and resilience, local jobs, sustainability, and women’s economic empowerment.

## Trade mainstreaming in Vanuatu: Governance for Growth (GFG)

GFG supports economic governance and public financial management reforms in Vanuatu, helping to improve service delivery and promote economic growth. GFG has been supporting Vanuatu’s Ministry of Trade and Commerce (MTC) since 2013 to strengthen and grow Vanuatu’s trade systems. Specific GFG activities include: the development and implementation of national policies such as the Vanuatu Trade Policy Framework 2019-25, the National Quality and Standards Policy, and the Industry, Cooperatives and Investment Policy.

GFG is also helping to make trade easier by supporting the Vanuatu Electronic Single Window Project – the most advanced one-stop trade portal in the Pacific. It is also supporting development of the ‘Made in Vanuatu’ Brand benefit local traders and the region, further integrating our neighbourhood into the global trading system.

## Digital Connectivity

Digital connectivity made up a notable proportion of Australia’s Aid for Trade funding in FY 2022/23, due to our support for ICT investments in the region. In addition, capacity building support for digital trade has increased in the areas of needs assessments, policy and strategy, regulations, financial literacy and inclusion, trade agreement negotiating support, trade facilitation and logistics, business skills training, and access to finance.

## Expanding digital connectivity in Palau: Submarine Cables

Australian support of Palau’s second submarine information and communications cable strengthens internet reliability and enables further innovation and transformation in the economy and society. It will create opportunities for tourism, business and investment, government services, health, and education. With greater connectivity will come greater flexibility and the potential to increase women’s economic empowerment and entrepreneurship, as well as economic opportunities for people with disabilities.

To complement these opportunities, Australia is also helping Palau to assess and address the risks of greater connectivity, especially for women, girls and boys, and people living with a disability, through additional support for online safety and other social protection issues such as online gambling. Assessments underway will inform a program of support to Palau on digital infrastructure to address harmful digital communication, social protection, and cyber safety.

## Timor-Leste WTO Accession

Australia proudly supports Timor-Leste’s WTO Membership. We assisted Timor-Leste throughout its WTO accession, with analysis, negotiation support, and legislative reform.

We continue to support Timor-Leste’s national trade and development objectives through our AUD 8.6 million package in support of Timor-Leste’s WTO and ASEAN Membership goals. Timor-Leste’s WTO Membership will benefit local traders and the region, further integrating our neighbourhood into the global trading system.

## Pacific Trade Invest (PTI) Australia

PTI facilitates deals between Pacific Island Forum economies and the rest of the world. The Australian Office supports businesses across the Pacific to strengthen connections in the Australian market – to “improve the livelihoods of Pacific people by enabling decent work and economic growth in the Blue Pacific.”

In 2022, PTI Australia facilitated a record-breaking AUD 49.5 million in exports from the Pacific. Nine hundred and seventeen businesses were supported, including 259 that are women-led enterprises.

The Pacific has been one of the region’s most adversely affected by COVID-19. It has also experienced numerous natural disasters in recent years. PTI support has been critical in areas most affected by these shocks, such as tourism, digital trade, short-term labour mobility, and key export products. PTI has helped to promote economic recovery and resilience, local jobs, sustainability, and women’s economic empowerment.

## Measuring Aid for Trade effectiveness under Australia’s International Development Policyⁱⁱ

Australia’s International Development Policy includes measurable trade and development objectives and targets to drive meaningful change.

| **01 Trade** | **02 Inclusive development** | **03 Sustainable development** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Increase capacity of our partner countries to participate effectively in rules-based trade and economic architecture; | 80 per cent of all development investments will address gender equality effectively; | At least half of all new bilateral and regional investments valued at more that $3 million will have a climate change objective from Australia’s financial year of 2024/25. |
| Support partner countries to engage productively in the multilateral trading system. | All new projects with a value of $3 million or more must have a targeted gender equality objective. | w ith a goal of increasing this to 80 per cent in the financial year of 2028/29. |

ⁱⁱ [Australia’s International Development Policy](https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/australias-international-development-policy); [Australia’s International Development Performance and Delivery Framework](https://www.dfat.gov.au/publications/development/australias-development-policy-performance-and-delivery-framework)